

Message Text

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ACTION OIC-04

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 HEW-08 AID-20 L-03 DRC-01 /053 W

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R 271130ZTJUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9909

INFO AMEMBASSY NASSAU

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE GEORGETOWN 1074

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCON, SWEL, XL

SUBJECT: SIXTH CONFERENCE OF CARIBBEAN HEALTH MINISTERS

REF: (A) NASSAU 1063; (B) GEORGETOWN A-30; (C) GEORGETOWN A-46

(D) STATE 110373; (E) STATE 120630

1. DURING COURTESY CALL ON SECRETARY GENERAL OF CARIBBEAN COMMUNITY WILLIAM DEMAS, CHARGE' AND ECONOFF IN LOW-KEYED MANNER RAISED THE SEPARATE SEATING OF PUERTO RICAN DELEGATE (DR. ALVAREZ) AT SIXTH CONFERENCE OF CARIBBEAN HEALTH MINISTERS. DEMAS SAID HE WAS UNAWARE OF SEPARATE SEATING OF DR. ALVAREZ AND ACKNOWLEDGED PROTOCOL PROBLEM INVOLVED. LATER, IN PHONE CONVERSATION WITH ECONOFF,

DEMAS VOLUNTEERED HE WOULD TALK WITH DR. BOYD, CHIEF OF CARICOM HEALTH SECTION, WHEN BOYD RETURNS FROM TRIP TO U.S., AND ASK HIM TO LIST PUERTO RICA DELEGATE WITH U.S. DELEGATES IN FINAL CONFERENCE REPORT.

2. WHILE SEPARATE SEATING OF PUERTO RICAN DELEGATE WAS PROBABLY INTENTIONAL (REF A), EMBASSY BELIEVES PROBLEMS IN ACCREDITING U.S. DELEGATION HAVE PERHAPS CONTRIBUTED TO CONFUSION OVER STATUS OF PUERTO RICAN DELEGATE. EMBASSY INFORMED DEPARTMENT IN REF B, DATED MARCH 25, OF CARICOM INVITATION TO ATTEND CONFERENCE AND REQUESTED RESPONSE. EMBASSY AGAIN REQUESTED RESPONSE IN REF C, DATED

MAY 12. ON MAY 25, WE RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS (REF D) TO ACCREDIT DR. UHRICH AND MR. SALISBURY AS U.S. DELEGATION AND INFORMED CARICOM SECRETARIAT. ON JUNE 7, WE RECEIVED FURTHER

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INSTRUCTIONS TO ACCREDIT DR. ALVAREZ. BY THAT TIME, WITH CONFERENCE SCHEDULED TO BEGIN JUNE 10, ALL MEMBERS OF CARICOM HEALTH SECTION HAD ALREADY DEPARTED GEORGETOWN FOR NASSAU. EMBASSY NEVERTHELESS INFORMED SECRETARIAT BY DIPLOMATIC NOTE OF ACCREDITATION OF

DR. ALVAREZ. SO, ALTHOUGH CARICOM OFFICIALS WERE APPARENTLY AWARE DR. ALVAREZ WOULD ATTEND CONFERENCE, AT BEST THEY RECEIVED OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION OF HIS ACCREDITATION BY USG ONLY AFTER CONFERENCE HAD ALREADY BEGUN, IN MARKED DIFFERENTIATION FROM OTHER USDELS.

3. EMBASSY EXPERIENCED SIMILAR PROBLEM WITH ACCREDITATION OF U.S. DELEGATION TO CARIBBEAN CONFERENCE ON EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SURVEILLANCE EARLIER THIS YEAR. WE RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS TO ACCREDIT DELEGATION TWO DAYS BEFORE CONFERENCE BEGAN AND AFTER THEIR NAMES HAD APPEARED IN LOCAL PRESS. EMBASSY HAS REASON TO BELIEVE DR. BOYD OF CARICOM HEALTH SECTION HAS WORKED DIRECTLY WITH HIS CONTACTS IN OTHER USG

AGENCIES, WITH DEPT BEING INFORMED AFTER THE FACT.

4. WE BELIEVE PART OF THE PROBLEM OF SEPARATE PUERTO RICAN TREATMENT AT CARICOM-SPONSORED CONFERENCES CAN BE AVERTED IF THE DEPT WILL GIVE US EARLY NOTIFICATION OF ACCREDITATION OF DELEGATES AND WILL INCLUDE ANY PUERTO RICAN DELEGATES IN THAT ORIGINAL NOTIFICATION. MATTHEWS

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC PROTOCOL, HEALTH, MEETING DELEGATIONS, MINISTERIAL MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 JUN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: WorrelSW
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974GEORGE01074
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: n/a
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D740170-0932
From: GEORGETOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740684/aaaahbai.tel
Line Count: 93
Locator: TEXT ON MICROFILM, TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION OIC
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: (A) NASSAU 1063; (B) GEORGETOWN A-30, ; (C) GEORGETOWN A-46
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: WorrelSW
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 SEP 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <05 MAR 2003 by WorrelSW>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> mcm 971027
Subject: SIXTH CONFERENCE OF CARIBBEAN HEALTH MINISTERS
TAGS: OCON, SWEL, RQ, XL, OCON, SWEL
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005